

Re: Expensive Small Aperture Refractor?

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- *From:* "Mark S. Holden" <mark@xxxxxxx>
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Shneor wrote:

Visually speaking, small, high quality refractors are great if you don't mind not being able to view 80% of what you can see, for example, with an 18". People with small refractors spend time splitting double stars, and view planets a lot. They use averted vision to view many NGCs and ICs and are lucky if they can spot many of these under the best conditions. Many of these they won't be able to view at all.

As far as imaging is concerned, you'll get better images from an 11" SCT than from a 5" APO. The SCT is probably a bit cheaper, too. Small APOs are what I like to call "vanity scopes", no different from the Questars.

I guess a smapp APO is like a Porsche. Not very practical, but a real flashy example of conspicuous consumption.

Clear skies,
Shneor Sherman

With my normal sized car, I think I'd rather deal with a 5" apo refractor than an 11" SCT.

Here's a page with various images taken with various apo refractors ranging from 80 to 254mm:

<http://www.tmboptical.com/itemsGrid.asp?cat_id=16>

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